2008 GPS for Fire Management and ICS

Two Locations

March 17-21, 2008 in Vernal, UT
April 14-18, 2008 in Asheville, NC

Course Coordinator: Don Washco
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Tuition: $400

Nomination Due: November 1, 2007

DESCRIPTION: GPS FOR FIRE MANAGEMENT AND ICS is a 32-hour course for fire and incident management staff providing advanced training in the use of GPS equipment for navigation and data collection. Course participants use GPS receivers to navigate to known locations, correctly collect data that can be communicated in written or verbal formats, and download data used to create map products and files for use in a geographic information system (GIS) program, to meet the needs of fire managers or incident command staff. Additionally, participants learn to plan a mapping mission, use GPS in conjunction with digital and paper maps, and the functional role GPS technology plays in fire and all-hazard incident management today. The use of GPS is one of the most efficient methods for documenting information regarding the location of facilities, conditions, and environments affected by Wildfire, Floods, Earthquakes, and other incidents. Candidates from all agencies involved in all-hazard incident management are encouraged to apply

During the course, students will:

- Set up a GPS receiver to navigate and collect data.
- Navigate using the GPS
- Collect data using the GPS
- Develop efficient plan to collect requested data on an incident.
- Complete Mission Checklist.
- Record metadata [in a notebook, field log, or on an Incident GPS Metadata Form].
- Manage for GPS error.
- Troubleshoot mission request and complete mission, taking into account your skill level and GPS capabilities.
- Determine datum and coordinate system that the incident or home unit is using or is appropriate for the mission.
- Plot locations on a map from a set of GPS coordinates.
- Report coordinates for a known location on a map.
- Coordinate mission with GIS specialist of incident command staff or home unit.
- Download GPS data used to create a simple map.

OBJECTIVE:

- Accurately plot or locate points on a USGS topographic map using lat/long and UTM.
- For a known location on a USGS topographic map, determine the coordinates and report the

coordinates and datum.
- Given a set of coordinates, enter those coordinates as waypoints into a GPS unit and navigate to the field locations of the waypoints. Be able to complete this task with coordinates expressed in any datum given.
- For a given incident or project, use a GPS unit to collect requested data for features in the field that can be downloaded into a GIS program to make a variety of products.
- Down data from GPS unit to text files and ESRI shapefiles
- From a list of available GPS equipment, select the appropriate equipment for a variety of missions

TARGET GROUP: Persons who need to operate a GPS unit to navigate and/or collect data in conjunction with fire management, wildland fire incidents, or other all-hazard incident and emergency management operations. The Primary Target is non-GIS staff such as engine operators, field observers, engine captains, WUI specialists, fuels technicians, crew bosses, hotshot crew superintendents, fire use module members, and firefighters. The Secondary Target includes GIS tech/specialists and resource specialists wanting to improve use of GPS.

NOTE: This course is NOT a GIS course. Those persons interested in learning more about the use of GIS for Incidents should apply for the S-341, GIS Specialist for Incident Management.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

Students must:

- Be involved in fire suppression/use, Incident Management Support (wildland fire or all-hazard) or other field aspects of fire management such as fuels reduction, fire effects monitoring or planning.
- Be proficient in the Windows operating system, the basics of computer operation, and computer file management procedures

COURSE HARDWARE REQUIREMENT: Students will be **required to bring a notebook PC** to the course with the following minimum specifications:

	Minimum	**Recommended**
Windows Operating System	NT4 / 2000 / XP	NT4 / 2000 / XP
Memory	256 MB	512 MB
Processors: Pentium II, III, IV, or equivalent	400 MHz	1.4 GHz
Free hard drive space	20 GB	40 GB
USB	1.1 required	1.1 required
Display resolution	1280 x 1024	1024 x 768
Mouse or Pointer	required	required

Software: Software requirements are being updated for this course and will be provided upon acceptance to the course. **All required software will be provided to you and must be installed and running properly prior to class or administrative rights to load software must be allowed in your laptop configuration for in-class installations.**

GPS Hardware: The Garmin GPSMAP 76S receiver will be used as the training platform to provide hands on experience in planning and executing all GPS missions. GPSMAP 76, GPSMAP 76C/CS,

Garmin GPS V, eTrex Legend/Vista or GPSMAP60C receivers are not acceptable alternatives to the 76S for class use but may be brought along for use outside of class time. Familiarity with the GPS receiver on your home unit is important and taking time to apply classroom knowledge to your receiver is encouraged. **If you do not have a Garmin GPSMAP 76S, we will provide one for your use.**

NOMINATION PROCESS: Nominations should be emailed or faxed to the coordinator. Access the nomination form at: http://www.nationalfiretraining.net/misc/nwcgnomform.doc

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